



**TESTIMONY of Big I Connecticut
before the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee**

Public Hearing:

**H.B. No. 6621 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE
RENEWAL OF SURPLUS LINES INSURANCE
POLICIES**

Thursday, February 16th

Delivered by:

Danielle Brown

Insurance Broker, Double Eagle Insurance Agency, Fairfield CT

Board Member, Big I Connecticut

Senator Cabrera and Representative Wood, Senator Hwang and Representative Pavalock-D Amato, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Danielle Brown, and I am an insurance broker with the Double Eagle Insurance Agency in Fairfield, and Board Member of Big I Connecticut. Founded in 1889, Big I Connecticut is a statewide trade association representing independent insurance agents and brokers. We believe independent insurance agents serve customers best with trusted advice to protect what matters most to them.

Big I CT strongly supports H.B. 6621. Excess & Surplus (E&S) lines insurance is specialty coverage that standard carriers do not cover. Typically, this includes unusual or high-risk exposures, or those with little or no claims history. E&S coverage offers substantial flexibility and is essential to promoting innovation and choice in the insurance market. It is one of the fastest growing markets for insurance.

In order to place and renew coverage in the E&S market, an agent must first have coverage declined by three admitted insurance carriers. In practice, this is a significant time and paperwork burden on agents, particularly on renewals where the agent has already once received the necessary declinations. Eliminating the requirement to obtain three declinations from admitted carriers when renewing a policy will streamline the process for obtaining coverage and allow agents to focus on what matters most – helping their customers.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Additionally, please feel free to contact Scott Hobson, Big I CT's AVP of Government Relations at SHobson@BigICT.org with follow up questions.